

PRESS RELEASE

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BRASSAI: THE SECRET PARIS OF THE 1930S
August 5 - September 17, 1989

Paris at night, in bordellos, cafes, or at street fairs, seen with mistress or friends or alone, often in ominous or unsavory places, is the subject of the exhibition **Brassai: The Secret Paris of the 1930s**, on view at The Cleveland Museum of Art from August 5 through September 17, 1989. About fifteen vintage black-and-white prints, on loan from the Edwynn Houk Gallery, Chicago, and a private collector, make up this newest exhibition in the Gallery D series organized by Tom Hinson, curator of contemporary art at the Museum.

In 1924 Brassai left his native land, in what is now Hungary, to establish himself as a painter in Paris. During his early years in Paris, he wrote, "I lived at night, going to bed at sunrise, getting up at sunset, wandering about the city from Montparnasse to Montmartre...I was inspired to become a photographer by my desire to translate all the things that enchanted me in the nocturnal Paris I was experiencing." Brassai's photographs are a knowing, passionate, and surprising record of what he calls the "secret, suspicious world" of the "strange Parisian nights of the thirties before they sank into nothingness." They are the work of an artist whose sly charm and vitality were a match for Paris.

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